



Big Bear Airport General Manager Ryan Goss discusses the proposed airport terminal building during a Zoom meeting Aug. 11.

## Airport terminal project moves to financing phase



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The Big Bear Airport District board of directors authorized its general manager, Ryan Goss, to move forward with exploring financing options for the construction of a new terminal building. On Aug. 11 the board approved a plan that would include using \$5 million from reserves and to seek financing of \$5.8 million for the \$10.8 million project.

The estimated cost of the project increased due to materials costs. The original plan was for an \$8 million building. Goss said the hope is that by the time the project moves to the construction phase, material costs will

decrease. "Because this is a Bluescope/Sourcewell project, a government procurement entity, if the project comes in under budget, that's all we have to pay," Goss said. The \$10.8 million is the most that would have to be paid, even if the project comes in over budget, he said. The project is a not-to-exceed project, Goss said.

Board members agreed the project concept is good and each member is ready to move forward.

Board president Rick Siefert believed the district should finance more and use less reserves because "money is cheap right now." Siefert voted against the motion to use \$5 million in reserves. The motion was made by board member Julie Smith and seconded by Wes Krause. Smith and Krause are on the development committee, which reviewed all the documents before the item came to the full board.

The authorization gives Goss the ability to work with Mike Williams of Columbia Capital and a team of financial consultants to come up with funding options, recommendations of debt structure and bond/loan covenants, the preparation of the plan to finance including future debt, and to draft and review bond legal and sale documents.